Application. No. 10/822,522
Response to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

Attorney/Docket No. 24061.123
Customer No. 42717

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were previously pending, of which claims 1, 6, and 16 have been amended, and claims 2-5, 7-15, and 17-30 remain in their original form. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. Reconsideration of presently pending claims 1-30 is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Noted with appreciation is the indication that claims 6 and 21 are directed at allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 2, and in independent form. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claim 6 includes the step of generating second information responsive to the first information and thus, overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 2, as is discussed below. Accordingly, claim 6 is in condition for allowance. However, claim 21 depends from a rejected claim but, for reasons set forth below, it is believed that the rejected claim is also allowable. Therefore, it is believed to be unnecessary to separately place claim 21 in independent form at this time.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. More specifically, the Examiner indicated that, "[t]he omitted steps are: how second information is 'determined in response to the first information.'" (See Office Action, pg. 2). Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to better clarify the present application. Amended claims 1 and 16 recite, in part, the step of generating second information responsive to the first information. The Specification reads as follows:

> In response to the [first] information, the computing system 204 [of the first service provider] outputs to the computing system 224 [of the customer affiliated with the second service provider], various [second] information including: (a) an invoice 414, (b) the WIP information 408, (c) a "slow moving" alert 416, and (d) a shipping alert 418.

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> As can be seen, [second] information output by the computing system 204 (and received by the computing system 224) include information that is <u>identical or substantially similar</u> to the [first] information output by the computing system 226 [of the second service provider] (e.g., the WIP information 408). Conversely, the computing system 204 also outputs [second] information by which is determined in <u>response</u> [to] the [first] information output by the computing system 226 [of the second service provider] or the computing system 224. For example, the computing system 204 [of the first service provider] determines the information included in the "slow moving" alert 416 in <u>response</u> to the WIP information 408. The "slow moving" alert 416, when received by the computing system 226, indicates to the customer 106 that the second service provider 104 is processing a lot of IC's at a rate slower than a previously determined rate.... (Present Application, pars. [0032 & 0033]) (Emphasis added).

From the above, it is clear that the first service provider generates second information that is responsive to the first information and outputs this second information to the customer.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 16 are complete, and thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 2, with respect to claims 1 and 16, should be withdrawn.

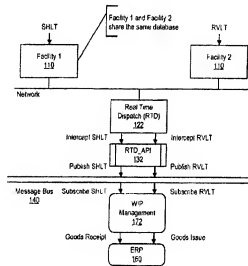## Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Amended claim 1 recites:

> A method of communicating semiconductor manufacturing information, the method comprising:
> providing, by a first service provider, a lot of semiconductor components to a second service provider for processing;
> receiving, by the first service provider, first information associated with the processing, from the second service provider;
> generating, by the first service provider, second information responsive to the first information; and
> outputting, by the first service provider, the second information to a customer affiliated with the second service provider.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yazback et al. (US Patent No. 6,839,601 hereinafter referred to as "Yazback"). The PTO provides in MPEP §2131 that "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Therefore, to sustain this rejection with respect to amended claim 1, Yazback must contain <u>all</u> of the above claimed elements of the claim.

The Examiner alleges that all the steps of claim 1 are disclosed in Col. 5, lines 37-52, of

Yazback, which reads as follows:

> Referring to FIG. 3, an intrafacility shipping process flow is shown. More
> specifically, when a lot is shipped from a first facility (facility 1) to another
> facility (facility 2) a ship lot (SHLT) transaction is initiated. A lot history
> WIPLTH record containing the SHLT transaction is received by the real time
> dispatcher 122 and is then intercepted [by the] RTD API 132. The RTD API 132
> converts the record to XML and publishes the record to the middleware message
> bus 140. The WM API 130 of facility 2 subscribes to the message and initiates a
> wafer data upload process. (See FIG. 8). The WIP management system 172
> subscribes to the message and updates its database to indicate that the lot has
> competed in the source facility (facility 1). If attributes associated with the lot
> were changed, these changed attributes are uploaded to the second facility via the
> WM API 130 of the second facility.

FIG. 3 is shown below:

From the above, it is clear that the cited passage does not disclose all the steps of claim 1. More

specifically, nowhere in the cited passage does it disclose the steps of: "receiving, by the first

service provider, first information associated with the processing, from the second service

provider," "generating, by the first service provider, second information responsive to the first

information," and/or "outputting, by the first service provider, the second information to a

customer affiliated with the second service provider." In contrast, the cited passage only

discloses an intrafacility shipping process between facility 1 and facility 2. When the lot is

shipped from source facility 1 to destination facility 2, the RTD (real time dispatcher) by way of

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the RTD API (application program interface) publishes the lot history WIPLTH record containing the shipping transaction to the middleware message bus. The WP API (work management application program interface) of facility 2 subscribes to the message (WIPLTH) via the middleware message bus and initiates a wafer data upload process for that lot. The WP API of facility 2 obtains the wafer data from the MES (manufacturing execution system) and publishes this wafer data to the middleware message bus. (See Yazback, Col. 7, lines 40-58; FIG. 8). The WIP management system subscribes to this message via the middleware message buss and updates its database with the wafer data to indicate the lot has completed processing in source facility 1.

The source facility 1 in the cited passage of Yazback does not perform the steps of receiving, generating, and/or outputting, as is recited in claim 1. As noted above, when the lot is shipped from the source facility 1 to the destination facility 2, the RTP (real time dispatcher) via the RTP API (application program interface) of facility 1 publishes the lot history WIPLTH record containing the shipping transaction to the middleware message bus. After this step, the destination facility 2 (i.e., WP API of facility 2) and the WIP management system perform the rest of the steps of the shipping process cited by the Examiner.

Here, the first service provider provides a lot of semiconductor components to a second service provider for processing. (See Present Application, par. [0030]). The first service provider receives first information associated with the processing of the lot of semiconductor components from the second service provider. (See Present Application, par. [0032]). The first service provider generates second information responsive to the first information. (See Present Application, pars. [0032 & 0033]). The first service provider outputs the second information to a customer affiliated with the second service provider. (See Present Application, par. [0031]).

Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 of claim 1 is not supported by the Yazback reference, and should be withdrawn.

Now turning to independent claim 16. Claim 16 was rejected under the same rational as claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to recite a similar limitation as in claim 1 and is allowable

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for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 of claim 16 is not supported by the Yasback reference, and should be withdrawn.
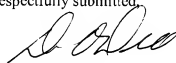
Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-15, and 17-30 depend from, either directly or indirectly, and further limit independent claims 1 and 16 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above for claims 1 and 16.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the foregoing that independent claims 1, 6, and 16 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-15, and 17-30 depend from, either directly or indirectly, and further limit independent claims 1 and 16 and, therefore, are allowable as well.

Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.
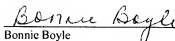
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Client Matter No. 2003-0744/24061.123
R-148333